

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 484  
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Private Matthew Prince  
for his meritorious service in the fight for Iraqi  
freedom.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism and altruism through service in the Army, and other units of the U.S. Armed Forces; these individuals selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, we live in an era in which the fabric of international diplomacy is complex and densely interwoven; the terrain is treacherous, and our nation must act judiciously and with earnest resolve in order to protect the institution of democracy and to make the world safe for the advancement of personal and political freedom for the expanse of the diverse human family; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, our Armed Forces have nobly shouldered the responsibility of ridding the international community of the scourge that is terrorism, as they

have so valiantly fought for the freedoms of the Iraqi people during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and they actively maintain a vigilant presence in that nation and throughout the world, guarding against those who would seek to destroy the hard-earned freedoms of so many; and

WHEREAS, Private Matthew Prince, a nineteen-year-old graduate of Shelbyville High School, is one such soldier who has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the U.S. Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, Private Prince served with great bravery and ability as a Tract Vehicle Repairman during Operation Iraqi Freedom until the fateful morning of April 4, 2003, when he was ambushed as his vehicle drove down the road from Kuwait to Baghdad; an Iraqi soldier in civilian dress attacked Private Prince with an AK-47; and

WHEREAS, despite his most serious injuries, Private Prince fought to protect his fellow soldiers and was able to shoot a number of Iraqi soldiers before succumbing to his wounds; and

WHEREAS, he has been transferred to Walter Reed Hospital in suburban Washington, D.C., for further treatment; ever the valiant soldier, he wants to return to his unit after he has recovered; and

WHEREAS, Private Prince has performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; for his bravery in the face of extreme circumstances, he has received the National Defense Ribbon, and he will be receiving a Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and support of his father and stepmother, Lonnie and Faith Prince; his brothers, Ronald and Allen Prince; and his sister, Diana Prince; and

WHEREAS, Private Matthew Prince has earned the gratitude of a nation; his service can only be categorized as outstanding, and he should be duly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Private Matthew Prince from Shelbyville

for meritorious service in the U.S. Army, wish him a most speedy recovery from his wounds, and offer him our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.